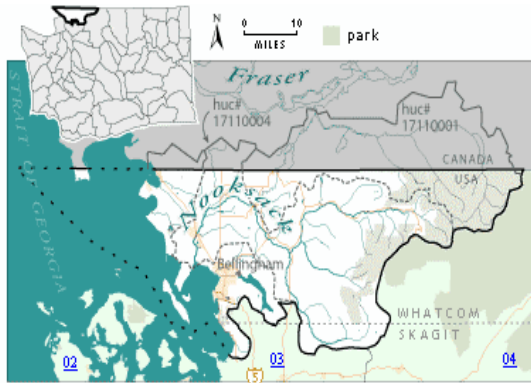


Nooksack Basin - WRIA #1

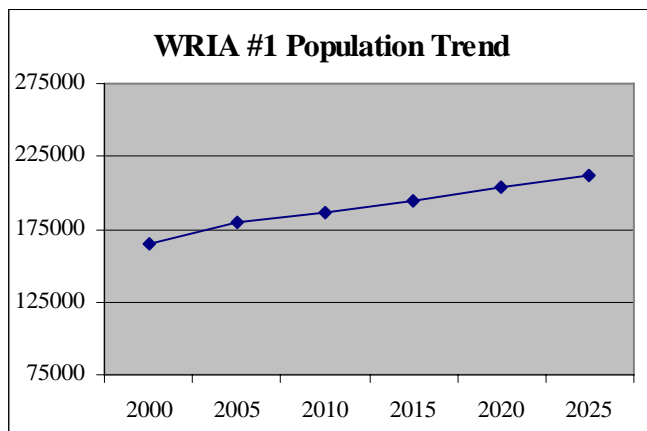


Watershed Description

WRIA #1 encompasses about 1,039,111 acres, and includes more than 1,000 miles of rivers and streams. The eastern third is mountainous and heavily forested. The western portion consists mostly of a broad floodplain. As part of the Fraser lowlands, this WRIA has undulating glacial drift plains, terraces, and floodplains with low gradient meandering rivers and streams. Surface material is deep to moderately deep silt to sandy loam. Potential natural vegetation is western hemlock, western red cedar, and some red alder. The mean temperature ranges from 33/44° (winter) to 50/73° (summer).

Population

There are approximately 164,463 people living in the Nooksack River Basin, which covers much of Whatcom county and a small part of Skagit county. The primary population centers are Bellingham, Lynden, and Ferndale. The majority of people live in unincorporated areas. The population graph reflects the combined projected population of those counties located within the watershed (Office of Financial Management population projections).



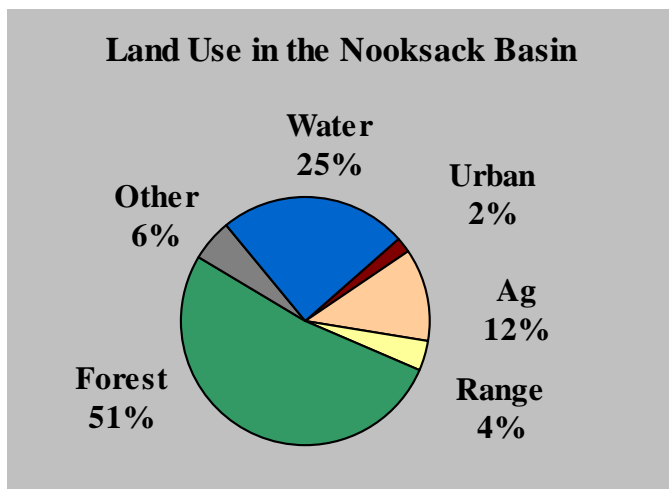
Counties	% of basin
Whatcom	94%
Skagit	6%

Tribal Reservation Lands in WRIA #1
Lummi Tribe
Nooksack Tribe

Land ownership for WRIA #1 includes federal, state, local, tribal, and private lands. Data was derived from the Public Lands Survey by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Land Ownership	Acres	Proportion
Federal	271,005	26.1%
State	109,219	10.5%
Local	3,457	0.3%
Tribal	12,395	1.2%
Private	643,035	61.9%

Land use in the Nooksack Basin is mainly forestry, agriculture, and water related uses. The general type of known land-use activities¹ within the watershed is graphed according to the percentage of its occurrence.



¹ Category "other" may include perennial ice/snow, bare rock/sand/clay, quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, transitional, barren, and/or wetland areas.

The primary towns and cities in WRIA #1 include Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden, Everson, Sumas, and Blaine.

Legislative and Congressional Districts

To determine your region's legislative or congressional district, see:

<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

To determine **Latitude/Longitude coordinates**, see:

<http://www.topozone.com/>

(Make sure you set the button on the bottom of the page to D/M/S - hold the cursor over a spot on the map and the coordinates show at the bottom of the screen.)

Several federal programs refer to watersheds according to their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). To learn more about your watershed and determine which **HUC** your town or county is located in, see:

<http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/>

Water Quality

Water Quality Assessment

The statewide Water Quality Assessment categorizes waterbody segments that have water quality data available. The Simple Query Tool and interactive mapping tool allow you to search for specific categories, water bodies, pollutant parameters, and other information, in whatever combination you choose. **WRIA #1** has one hundred seventy five (175) known Category 5 (impaired) water bodies.

To view the Water Quality Assessment, use the Simple Query Tool.

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wats/WATSQBEHome.asp>

To view the Water Quality Assessment by Category, choose the Category (1 – 5) you are interested in from the drop down box. To view it by Water Resource Inventory Resource Area (WRIA), choose the WRIA number you are interested in from the drop down box.

Use the Interactive Mapping Tool to see a graphic representation of the Water Quality Assessment. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application that helps you find waters you are interested in and information about problems in that water body.

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa/viewer.htm>

Domestic Water Supply

WRIA #1 has several community water systems that use surface water sources. For further information regarding water supplies, see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm>

Salmonid Stock Status

Good water quality is important to help salmon survive and thrive. To find out which salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered in a region, see:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/regions/map.htm>

Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Growing Areas

Commercial shellfish growing areas are classified by the Washington State Department of Health as either: *Approved*, *Conditionally Approved*, *Restricted*, or *Prohibited*.

For the most up-to-date information about shellfish area designations, see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/grow.htm>

Recreational shellfish closures are determined by the Department of Health and local health jurisdiction; for information contact your county or health district or see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/local.htm>

TMDLs and Other Watershed-Based Plans

For information about Total Maximum Daily Loads (**TMDLs**) in your area, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/>

To learn more about **watershed planning** in Washington State, see:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html>

For **funding applicants**, other useful links can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/links.html>